

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 2136

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, VE

SUBJECT: TRAVEL PLANS OF VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT

1. AT A BANQUET LAST NIGHT AT LA CASONA GIVEN IN HONOR OF MRS. MCCLINTOCK AND MYSELF ON WHICH OCCASION THE PRESIDENT PERSONALLY DECORATED ME WITH THE ORDER OF THE LIBERATOR IN ITS HIGHEST GRADE (GRAN CORDON), I HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THE PRESIDENT'S FORTHCOMING TRAVEL PLANS.
2. THE PRESIDENT LEAVES ON SUNDAY, MARCH 2, BY VIASA CHARTER JET FOR ALGIERS TO ATTEND THE CHIEFS OF STATE OPEC MEETING. HE PLANS TO REMAIN THREE DAYS IN ALGIERS AND TO RETURN DIRECTLY TO CHARACAS AS HE MUST BE ON HAND TO OPEN THE REGULAR SESSION OF CONGRESS ON MARCH 12 AT WHICH TIME HE WILL PRESENT AN ACCOUNTING TO THE NATION OF HIS FIRST YEAR IN OFFICE.
3. THE PRESIDENT WILL DEPART FOR MEXICO ON MARCH 17 FOR A FIVE-DAY STATE VISIT. HE SAID ACCORDINGLY THAT IF ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS PLANS TO BE HRE ON MARCH 15, THIS WOULD BE A CONVENIENT TIME TO RECEIVE HIM.
4. FOLLOWING THE MEXICO VISIT, AS PREVIOUSLY INDICATED, PRESIDENT PEREZ WILL RETURN VIA PANAMA FOR A MEETING MARCH 23-24 OF THE PRESIDENTS OF COLOMBIA AND COSTA RICA WITH PANAMANIAN CHIEF OF STATE TORRIJOS.
5. THE PRESIDENT CONFIRMED WHAT HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN PUBLICLY

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ANNOUNCED BY FOREIGN MINISTER ESCOVAR, NAMELY, THAT HE HAD RECEIVED

AN OFFICIAL INVITATION TO VISIT MAINLAND CHINA AND LAST WEEK HAD BEEN GIVEN AN INVITATION BY VISITING DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER MILOS MINIC OF YUGOSLAVIA TO MAKE A STATE VISIT TO THAT COUNTRY. HE HAD ALSO BEEN INVITED TO VISIT FRANCE, SPAIN, AND ROMANIA. LAUGHINGLY, HE SAID THAT HE COULD SPEND PRACTICALLY ALL SUMMER TRAVELING; BUT IT WAS CLEAR HE HAD NO INTENTION OF DOING SO. THE ONLY TRIPS FIRMLY SCHEDULED ARE THOSE TO ALGIERS, MEXICO, AND PANAMA.

6. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION AS TO WHEN THE VENEZUELAN PROPOSED CONFERENCE OF CARIBBEAN CHIEFS OF STATE WOULD TAKE PLACE, THE PRESIDENT RATHER VAGUELY REPLIED IT WOULD POSSIBLY BE NEXT JUNE. I HAD THE CLEAR IMPRESSION, HOWEVER, THAT HIS MIND IS NOT YET MADE UP ON THIS POINT.

MCCLINTOCK

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